

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 23.7.2001 on a Public Interest Litigation filed by People's Union for Civil Liberties has directed the States to see that all PDS shops, if closed are reopened and start functioning within one week from the date of order and regular supplies are made.

Two weeks time has been granted by the apex court for filing of reply affidavits by Union of India, FCI and the concerned State Governments.

Appointment of PDS Dealers in Bihar

1224. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent mid term appraisal of the Ninth Plan has revealed that the people living below the poverty line in Bihar have ceased to be the beneficiaries of PDS and has indicated the procedure for appointment of PDS dealers in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures . are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission in the Mid-Term appraisal of 9th Five Year Plan has cited a study in Bihar which has reported *inter alia* that on the whole, only Government staff, agents and retailers benefit from the Public Distribution System.

Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Governments/ UT Administrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities to the Principal Distribution Centres identification of

BPL population issue of ration cards and distribution of subsidised foodgrains to the cardholders rests with the State Governments.

As per the report received from Government of Bihar, it is not correct to say that people living below poverty line are not getting benefit under the PDS. The percentage lifting of BPL foodgrains (wheat and rice separately) during the last four years is as under:

Year	% of lifting against allocation of BPL Category	
	Rice	Wheat
1997-99	41.7	75.9
1998-99	55.1	86.2
1999-2000	52.6	93.1
2000-2001	16.40	34.40

(c) State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and make arrangement for distribution of the PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Failure of Antyodaya Scheme

*1225. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Antyodaya Scheme announced by Government proved to be futile;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that its benefits are not being extended to the village level;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the main reasons behind the failure of the scheme have been the negligent attitude of the State Governments; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.